



Clinical Congress News

The American College of Surgeons • 81st Clinical Congress • October 22-27, 1995 • New Orleans

Dear Colleague:

What you should know about recent Medicare budget negotiations

Reports of recent budget negotiations between government officials and the American Medical Association have been, in the opinion of the American College of Surgeons, misleading at best. In an effort to clarify the situation for Fellows of the College, ACS Director Paul A. Ebert, MD, FACS, recently sent a communication to the Fellowship outlining the College's views on the subject. Because of the importance of this issue, the letter is being printed in its entirety for attendees at the Clinical Congress.

Dear Colleague:

Recent press reports on efforts in Congress to achieve Medicare budget savings claim that negotiations with the American Medical Association have resulted in a "commitment from House Republicans not to reduce Medicare payments to doctors treating elderly patients."* From the perspective of surgeons, these reports simply are not true. In fact, according to the description of the "concession" we have received, surgeons will experience a payment decrease of approximately 10

percent for each and every surgical service they provide to Medicare patients, beginning on January 1, 1996. I want to take this opportunity to explain to the Fellowship how the proposed compromise is expected to affect surgeons, and to inform you of the College's views and the actions we have taken to communicate them.

Many factors are influencing the shape of the congressional debate on this issue:

1. The enormous Medicare budget savings target—\$270 billion over the next seven years.

2. The current formula for setting Medicare volume performance standards (MVPSSs), which will soon lead to unreasonably low targets followed by payment reductions for all categories of physicians' services.

3. Pressure from the Physician Payment Review Commission, Health Care Financing Administration, the American Medical Association, and organizations representing primary care and medical specialties to abandon the current system of separate MVPSSs and Medicare fee schedule conversion fac-

tors for each category of physicians' services that has led to a relatively favorable conversion factor for surgical services.

The House leadership package that is scheduled for consideration on the House floor contains several provisions of interest to physicians. First of all, it includes a number of so-called sweeteners that are intended to make some of the more painful aspects of the legislation easier for physicians to accept: (1) medical liability reform; (2) some antitrust relief for provider-sponsored health networks; (3) relief from regulation of physician office laboratories; and (4) relief from current prohibitions on physician "self-referrals." In addition, the bill eliminates the MVPSS formula problems that were expected to lead to negative fee schedule updates in future years.

However, of significant interest to surgeons, this legislative package would also establish a single fee schedule conversion factor for all physicians' services. While we do not yet know the exact amount of this new conversion factor, we are told that the net

impact will lead to payment increases for medical specialists, the same or slightly decreased payments for primary care services, and significant payment decreases for surgical services in 1996. So, the AMA's statement that "there would not be absolute rollbacks or reductions in physician fees,"* is true only in the aggregate. For surgeons, there would be an immediate and significant rollback in fees under the deal that was negotiated.

The net result is that those physicians who had the poorest performance under the current MVPSS system—that is, the volume of services they provided to Medicare patients increased beyond the federal government's notion of an acceptable rate of increase—would actually see payment for their services rise in a year when Congress is trying to implement \$270 billion in Medicare budget reductions. At the same time, surgeons—who were most in compliance with congressional intent by keeping the spending for their services well below the rates set by the govern-

(continued on page 2)

At Opening Ceremony

Pioneer of blood banking recognized

"My most brilliant student" was the apt title given Dr. Charles R. Drew by the famous surgeon Dr. Charles Locke Scudder, and one that was proven true by the conclusion of yesterday's opening ceremony lecture by Claude H. Organ, Jr., MD, FACS, "Charles Richard Drew: A Doyen of American Surgery." Dr. Organ is professor, department of surgery, University of California, Davis, and chairman, University of California, Davis-East Bay Program, Oakland, CA. He is also the author of a two-volume compilation, *A Century of Black Surgeons: The United States Experience*.

Dr. Organ outlined the simple beginnings and meteorologic rise to fame of

Charles Richard Drew. "Both parents were achievers," began Dr. Organ, who said that Mrs. Drew was a graduate of Howard University and Mr. Drew was a carpet layer. Mrs. Drew, Dr. Organ said, pointed out to young Charles, "You were cared for and educated by your father on his knees."

Always a fine student and high achiever, said Dr. Organ, Charles lived by the Roman attributes of dignitas, gravitas, honestas, and simplicitas.

He studied at Amherst College from 1922 to 1926. It was during this time, Dr. Organ said, that Charles was exposed to other black American achievers, such as Drs. Cobb and Weaver, Senator Brooke, Judge William Hastings, and General B. O. Davis, Sr.

After Amherst, convinced that he wanted to enter the field of medicine, Charles Drew took a position toward that end at Morgan State University, where he was a science instructor and a coach. However, he was denied admission to Howard Medical School, Dr. Organ said, because Charles lacked several hours of the English literature prerequisite. Fortunately, Charles Drew was accepted for medical school at McGill University.

Charles Drew thrived at McGill, said Dr. Organ, where he "lived in a color-free environment." Among many accolades accrued at McGill, Drew received the Williams Prize for Excellence and



Dr. Charles Richard Drew

(continued on page 4)

Surgical Forum XLVI dedicated to Dr. Belzer

The 46th volume of the *Owen H. Wangenstein Surgical Forum* will be dedicated to Folkert O. Belzer MD, FACS (1930-1995), at Tuesday morning's panel discussion, "New Clinical and Biological Frontiers." The panel is sponsored by the Committee for the Forum on Fundamental Surgical Problems, and will convene at 10:45 am in MR 13-17 of the Morial Convention Center.

Dr. Belzer was considered a foremost innovator in the field of transplant surgery. At the time of his death this past August, he had been chair-

man of the department of surgery at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, for the past 21 years.

Born in Indonesia, Dr. Belzer received his professional education in the U.S., including an MD degree from Boston (MA) University in 1958, and graduate degrees from the University of Oregon, Portland, and the University of California, San Francisco. While at the University of California as an assistant professor of surgery, Dr. Belzer began research in organ preservation, which remained a lifelong interest.

In 1974, he moved to the University

of Wisconsin as chairman of the surgery department and head of transplantation. While at the university, Dr. Belzer developed one of the nation's largest transplantation programs. For his outstanding teaching as well as clinical work, he was chosen outstanding teacher of the year by the medical students and residents in 1977-1980, 1982, 1988, 1989, 1994, and 1995. His many honors include the Medallion for Scientific Achievement of the American Surgical Association and the first Pioneer Award of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.

In their dedication of the *Surgical Forum* volume to Dr. Belzer, Nancy L. Ascher, MD, FACS, and David L. Dunn, MD, FACS, state: "Dr. Belzer has made major scientific contributions to the area of organ preservation within the field of organ transplantation and developed the widely used University of Wisconsin (UW) preservation solution...The *Surgical Forum* looks to Dr. Belzer as a role model for his outstanding achievements in surgical teaching, basic research, and clinical activity."

Accepting the dedication on Tues-



Dr. Folkert Belzer

day morning on behalf of Dr. Belzer will be his son John Belzer, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco.

In addition to the dedication of the *Surgical Forum*, Tuesday's panel will examine the topics of wound healing biology, fetal healing and fibrotic disease, chronic wounds, and genetic alterations of wounds.

DEAR COLLEAGUE, from page 1

ment—would be heavily penalized. Furthermore, while all physicians would benefit significantly from revising the current MVPS formula, only those who provide surgical services would see payments reduced in order to finance the formula revision.

The American College of Surgeons has not endorsed the House leadership package. In our view, any benefits from the sweeteners negotiated by AMA, *should they survive negotiations with the Senate*, would be more than offset by the immediate and severe impact that the payment reductions would have on surgeons. Furthermore, we cannot endorse an agreement that requires surgeons to bear sole financial responsibility for provisions that would benefit the entire medical community. Finally, we believe that penalizing surgeons because they did not respond to payment reductions by increasing the volume of services they provide to Medicare patients is perverse and blatantly unfair.

The College continues to support the concept of performance-based incentives to restrain growth in the volume of services provided to Medicare patients; we also continue to support a separate MVPS and fee schedule conversion factor for surgical services. However, we have made it clear to policymakers that, *if they are intent on*

establishing a single fee schedule conversion factor, such a policy change must include a transition period in order to minimize disruptions to surgeons and their patients. These views have been communicated in meetings I have held with leaders in Congress and the Administration and in meetings with congressional staff. The College has also organized meetings and sent joint letters to Congress on behalf of the surgical specialty societies. The College has also initiated a grassroots effort involving participants in its key contact program, Chapter officers, Fellows who have traveled to Washington as participants in the chapter visit program, and thousands of Fellows who live in key congressional districts across the country.

As the Medicare budget debate continues, the College will continue its efforts to work with the surgical specialty societies to represent the views of surgeons. No matter what the outcome, it is vital that policymakers understand that the surgical community is deeply concerned about these issues and insists on its views being heard.

Paul A. Ebert, MD, FACS
Director

*Pear, Robert: Doctors' group says GOP agreed to deal on Medicare. *New York Times*, October 12, 1995, p.1.

Social Program offers two gala events

On Tuesday evening, surgeons and their guests can avail themselves of events reflecting the charm of New Orleans.

ACS Mardi Gras festival. Mardi Gras in October is the theme for this event, which begins with a trip across the Mississippi River to the area housing the floats and other elements of Mardi Gras. There will be a marching band and jazz music before and during a dinner of New Orleans favorites. The evening will conclude with an ACS parade, complete with mini floats, a dixieland band, and costumed revelers.

Botanical Gardens dinner dance. This event at the Two Sisters Pavilion

offers an evening of Southern tradition, where gracious dining, elegant music, and warm hospitality create a Crescent City experience. Cocktails will be served in a private garden canopied by magnolias and oaks, and a southern feast will be served in the Pavilion's dining room. After dinner, guests can dance or explore the lighted paths of the botanical gardens.

For more information on these and other Social Program events, the main registration and ticket sales area for the Social Program is in the Convention Center, and open during the hours of (Sunday) 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and (Monday-Thursday) 7:30 am - 5:00 pm.

The following companies have supported the Clinical Congress with advertisements in the Exhibit Guide section of this issue:

Aaron Medical Industries, Inc.
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Governors consider liability implications of managed care

On Sunday afternoon the Board of Governors presented a panel discussion at the Hilton Riverside Hotel that considered the "Current Status of Professional Liability and Its Relationship to Managed Care." Josef E. Fischer, MD, FACS, Chairman of the Governors' Committee on Professional Liability, served as moderator for the session.

The first speaker was Bernard T. Ferrari, MD, JD, FACS, a principal and director with McKinsey and Company, Los Angeles, CA. Dr. Ferrari provided an overview of the development of managed care and its ramifications for surgeons. "As physicians, we have a duty to leverage this force for the benefit of the American people," he stated. Dr. Ferrari noted that as of 1995 there are an estimated 56 million covered lives in HMOs in the U.S. He also told the Governors that they can expect an additional 30 percent of medically related costs to be eliminated from the health care system nationwide via managed care in the next five to seven years. To better prepare for this reduction and its impact on sur-

gical practice, Dr. Ferrari asked that surgeons consider: What is the balance of power in my market? Is there an oversupply of surgeons? What strategies are managed care players pursuing? What personal strategies should they be pursuing to ensure a competitive posture?

The second speaker was R. Edward Sanchez, MD, FACS, a general surgeon from San Diego, CA. Dr. Sanchez summarized the predicted liability crisis of managed care and reviewed essential aspects of representative case law, especially *Wickline v. the State of California* (1986). "The lesson from *Wickline*," Dr. Sanchez said, "was that physicians who comply with managed care policies without protest despite their medical misgivings are open to liability."

Dr. Sanchez described the process whereby the Health Care Financing Administration monitors managed care plans, but noted that it is woefully inadequate. The best response for physicians, according to Dr. Sanchez, is to ensure proper documentation of care, collect and disseminate data regarding professional liability, and,

most importantly, become advocates for their patients. "The solution to professional liability in managed care involves us all—surgeons must take an active role in the managed care process," he concluded.

The third speaker was Frank R. Lewis, Jr., MD, FACS, chairman of the department of surgery at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI, and First Vice-President-Elect of ACS. Dr. Lewis spoke on the surgeon's responsibility to the patient in managed care programs. He noted that effective measures to safeguard the quality of patient care are virtually nonexistent. However, he cited data from a number of studies that measured patient satisfaction, which indicate that individuals are generally satisfied with the treatment they receive through managed care programs. Dr. Lewis stated that the financial profiling of physicians, or economics versus quality of care, is a reality and will continue to be an important area for discussion in the future. Dr. Lewis called capitation and the incentive to underuse medical services the greatest problems for surgeons who seek to maintain responsi-

bility for the welfare of their patients. He called for surgeons to "recognize that putting their patients' welfare first remains key to their own best interests, both morally and financially."

The final speaker was Paul G. Gebhard, JD, senior partner and principal with the law firm of Jenner and Block, Chicago, IL. Mr. Gebhard outlined a number of provisions that should be considered before surgeons enter into a service agreement with a managed care organization. He noted that while some of the contract provisions will be governed by the particular type and organizational structure of the payor/contractor, physicians should nevertheless carefully consider how they want these provisions drafted. Because of the growing competition that exists between different managed care plans, surgeons should work closely with legal counsel to protect their interests regarding liability and compensation. "Don't be bashful about asking for modification of any provision you are uncomfortable with. Negotiate, and be certain that all parties are clear regarding contract obligations," he concluded.

At AUA Lecture

Joy and solace of surgery extolled

"I chose the title words for this lecture because they are the epigram and maxim of my own professional life," Joseph E. Murray, MD, FACS, said of his American Urological Association lecture yesterday, "The Joy and Solace of Surgery."

A surgeon, scientist, and inventor, Dr. Murray is known for his landmark and prolific work in transplantation, for which he received global acknowledgment with the 1990 Nobel Prize. Dr. Murray is emeritus professor of surgery, Harvard Medical School, and emeritus chief of plastic surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Children's Hospital Medical Center, Boston, MA.

"Ours is a glorious calling," Dr. Murray began. To illustrate the nature of the joy and solace of surgery, Dr. Murray offered to the audience that which he knows best: an account of his own professional challenges and rewards, from his early days at Valley Forge Hospital (where his nascent interest in facial deformities took root) to the halcyon days of organ transplants and immunologic challenges. He also paralleled his career to the

developmental stages of modern surgery, from excisional, to reconstructive, to replacement (transplantation), and finally to its current phase, inductive.

The majority of Dr. Murray's lecture focused on the many imaginative, innovative, and tireless colleagues, friends, and mentors who have surrounded him, such as David Hume, Norman Shumway, Thomas Starzl, John Merrill, J. Hartwell Harrison, Francis Moore, George Thorne, and others.

Dr. Murray said that the successes he and his colleagues achieved, such as breaking down the immune barrier in dogs, "meant we had something good to offer patients."

Of the future good that can be offered to patients, Dr. Murray said that he looks forward to further studies in genetic mutations, such as one recently documenting the abilities of the fruit fly to produce eyes on various parts of the body. Dr. Murray said that since humans and animals appear to have the same gene, it may be possible someday to produce livers, hearts, lungs, and other organs. "It's not that far-fetched in many respects," he said.

Dr. Murray spoke of the oft-quoted phrase, "joy has to be earned." He told the audience that they daily earn their joy through their grueling efforts to care for patients and juggle their personal lives. On a bittersweet note, Dr. Murray announced that this AUA lecture was to be a "valedictory lecture" of sorts, since he and his wife are taking a 12-month hiatus from all professional activities while Mrs. Murray recovers from a recent sudden illness.

Finally, Dr. Murray acknowledged the importance that organizations such as the College have in giving young researchers a forum to publish and to present their work, and personally

thanked the College for "giving me so many opportunities and friendships."

Dr. Murray provided a detailed account of the field of modern transplantation as well as a catalog of its pioneers in the August 1995 issue of the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*. The article, "The origins and consequences of organ transplantation," is an edited version of a lecture delivered at the College's Spring Meeting. To obtain a copy of the issue, contact the Clinical Congress Newsroom in MR 56 of the convention center, or the Communications Office at ACS headquarters in Chicago.

Donor pins available

Attendees of this year's Clinical Congress are encouraged to visit the philanthropy booth in the ACS Resource Center, which is located in the Morial Convention Center. For any size contribution to the ACS Scholarship Endowment Fund, individuals will receive a special lapel pin that signifies your support. The fund provides over \$800,000 annually for resident scholarships and faculty fellowships.

Information regarding the Fellows Leadership Society and additional philanthropic programs will also be available to Congress participants.

1996 trauma meeting set for Las Vegas

The Western States Committee on Trauma will sponsor its 28th continuing medical education course, Trauma and Critical Care—1996, April 1-3, 1996, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, NV.

Kenneth L. Mattox, MD, FACS, is Program Director. The Program Committee consists of Henry C. Cleveland, MD, FACS; David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS; Ernest E. Moore, Jr., MD, FACS; and Donald D. Trunkey, MD, FACS.

The course is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of surgeons, physicians, and nurses who are confronted with the seriously injured patient in rural, urban, and suburban hospitals. Emphasis will be placed on current standards and practice patterns for evaluation, diagnosis, and manage-

ment of trauma.

Trauma and Critical Care—1996 includes the following sessions: New Techniques and Technology in Resuscitation; EMS and Emergency Center Systems, Devices, and Application to Specific Injuries; Disaster Planning and Implementation (An Inside Look at the Oklahoma City Disaster); Thoracic and Abdominal Trauma; Management of Abdominal Injury; and Trauma Critical Care and Head Trauma. Other sessions include the Annual Trauma Review, Trauma Case Management, Annual Trauma Perspectives, Surfing the Trauma Webnet, and the Annual Trauma Debate.

Faculty for the meeting include: Richard V. Aghababian, MD, Worcester, MA; H. Scott Bjerke, MD, Las Vegas,

NV; Jon M. Burch, MD, FACS, Denver, CO; Henry C. Cleveland, MD, FACS, Denver, CO; H. Gill Cryer, MD, FACS, Los Angeles, CA; A. Brent Eastman, MD, FACS, La Jolla, CA; Asher Hirshberg, MD, Tel Aviv, Israel; James W. Holcroft, MD, FACS, Sacramento, CA; David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS, San Diego, CA; Steven B. Johnson, MD, FACS, Tucson, AZ; M. Margaret Knudson, MD, FACS, San Francisco, CA; Robert C. Mackersie, MD, FACS, San Francisco, CA; Kenneth L. Mattox, MD, FACS, Houston, TX; Kimball I. Maull, MD, FACS, Maywood, IL; Norman E. McSwain, Jr., MD, FACS, New Orleans, LA; Frank L. Mitchell, Jr., MD, FACS, Columbia, MO; Ernest E. Moore, Jr., MD, FACS, Denver, CO; J. David Richardson, MD, FACS, Lou-

isville, KY; G. Tom Shires, MD, FACS, Lubbock, TX; Erwin R. Thal, MD, FACS, Dallas, TX; Donald D. Trunkey, MD, FACS, Portland, OR; Alex B. Valadka, MD, Houston, TX; Matthew J. Wall, MD, FACS, Houston, TX; and John A. Weigelt, MD, FACS, St. Paul, MN.

The registration fees are \$490 for physicians and \$320 for nurses and residents before March 1, 1996. Registration after March 1 is \$550 for physicians and \$380 for nurses and residents. Advance registration is recommended since registration is limited. Refunds will be granted, less \$50 processing charge, up to March 12, 1996. To request an application or for more information, contact: ACS Trauma Dept., 55 E. Erie St., Chicago, IL; 60611, tel. 312/664-4050, ext. 342.



Dr. John Wong (left) receives the ACS chapter charter for Hong Kong from Dr. Richard J. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Hong Kong Chapter is the newest international chapter since the charter for India in 1993 and brings the international total to 25. Currently, the College has 94 chapters, including two in Canada and 67 in the U.S.

OPENING CEREMONY, from page 1

membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society.

In 1935, Dr. Organ said, Dr. Drew returned to his original destination, Howard University, as an instructor in pathology, in order to "help his people."

Dr. Drew's growing interest in whole blood substitutes was not reflected in the United States literature at that time (before 1940), said Dr. Organ. In fact, he pointed out that the only country publishing extensive research in that area was Russia.

However, Dr. Drew's relentless interest in the study of blood substitutes and the growing need for battlefield surgeons to have viable blood substitutes brought the subject slowly to the public's and other researchers' attention. (Dr. Organ reminded the audience that the term "blood bank" was coined by Dr. Bernard Fantus in 1937 at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, IL.)

By 1940, as Dr. Drew was completing his PhD under Dr. Scudder and Dr. Allen O. Whipple, he became widely known as a physician who thoroughly knew procedures for obtaining and storing plasma, who kept current in his knowledge of the field, who conducted extensive trials at Presbyterian Hospital, and who honed the necessary diplomatic skills to become an effective advocate and speaker.

These attributes, said Dr. Organ, made Dr. Drew the obvious choice to become, in 1941, the director of the U.S. Blood for Britain campaign.

However, Dr. Drew's brilliant career was severed in 1950, Dr. Organ said, when he sustained fatal injuries in an automobile accident on his way to an annual visit to the Tuskegee Institute.

In reflecting on the life of Charles Drew, Dr. Organ emphasized to the audience that although Dr. Drew is recognized as a pioneer of blood banking, he never claimed to have single-handedly developed the field: Dr. Drew always reminded his colleagues of the many scientists and other physicians "whose work he merely synthesized to make blood production a reality."

A poignant side to the life of Dr. Drew highlighted by Dr. Organ yesterday was that, due to the U.S. armed forces policy that accepted blood donation from "whites only," Dr. Drew, who made massive blood storage possible, had to live with the frustration of not being able to donate blood, even though he knew the ignorance of such a policy.

Finally, of the much publicized and controversial account of Dr. Drew's death, Dr. Organ dispelled the myth that he bled to death after the accident because he was denied admission to a nearby "whites-only" hospital. Dr. Organ quoted a physician present at the time, Dr. Charles Ford, who said, "All of the blood in the world could not have saved him."

Dr. Organ concluded by sharing Dr. Drew's guiding principle, which was that "excellence in performance can overcome all barriers."

No Smoking

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center is a nonsmoking building; therefore, the College requests that you refrain from smoking on the premises.

Official College ties and Fellowship jewelry

Official ACS ties and jewelry are available from Jim Henry, Inc., located in Booth 2707 in the technical exhibit area.

Scientific American Surgery expands

Scientific American Surgery (SAS), the surgical textbook published by Scientific American Medicine under the aegis of the American College of Surgeons, has been expanded and revised to offer increased coverage of surgical techniques (in nine new chapters along with the six previously published) and of the management of common diagnostic and therapeutic dilemmas facing general surgeons (in nine new clinical, problem-based chapters).

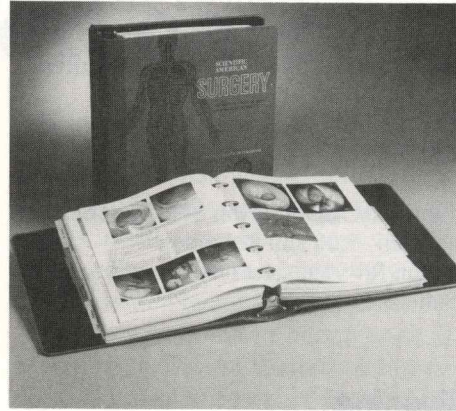
All nine of the technique chapters, originally intended to be published over a three-year period, are scheduled for publication in the 1996 quarterly updates to SAS. These chapters will address surgical procedures on the thyroid and parathyroid, breast, esophagus, stomach, biliary tract, pancreas, intestines, rectum, and anus. In particular, the chapters will include "tricks and traps" from well-known master surgeons (such as John Cameron, MD, FACS, John Sawyers, MD, FACS, and Ira Kodner, MD, FACS).

Of immediate interest is the entry of

SAS into the digital arena. A beta version of SAS-CD—the CD-ROM version of SAS—will be on display at booth 3207 in the technical exhibit area. SAS-CD is user-friendly and offers a number of unique features—such as the ability to navigate text by means of direct connections from the main chapter algorithms, a key component of the printed version of the text. SAS-CD will also include all of the information in SAS, including all tables and color illustrations, and will offer powerful and flexible searching and printing capabilities.

Like SAS, SAS-CD will be updated quarterly. Both Windows and Macintosh versions of SAS-CD will be available—the Windows version is scheduled to be released first, with the Macintosh version to follow within six months.

The fall 1995 SAS update features: "Trauma Resuscitation," by Eugene Moore, MD, FACS, and Frederick Moore, MD, FACS; "Bleeding," by F. William Blaisdell, MD, FACS; "Life-Threatening Electrolyte Abnormalities,"



Scientific American Surgery

by Kimberly Van Zee, MD, and Stephen Lowry, MD, FACS; "Cardiopulmonary Monitoring," by James Holcroft, MD, FACS, Jerome Abrams, MD, FACS, and Frank Cerra, MD, FACS; "Eicosanoids in Surgery," by Martin Weiser, MD, James Hill, MB, Thomas Lindsay, MD, and Herbert Hechtman, MD, FACS; "Non-AIDS Immunosuppression," by Carl Nohr, MD, PhD, FACS; and "Bowel Preparation," by Ronald Lee

Nichols, MD, FACS.

The winter 1996 SAS update will include: "Gastric Procedures," by John Sawyer, MD, FACS; "Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding," by Richard Schlinkert, MD, FACS, and Keith Kelly, MD, FACS; "Skin Preparation," by Byron Masterson, MD, FACS; "Cytokines and the Cellular Response to Injury and Infection," by Yuman Fong, MD, and Stephen Lowry, MD, FACS; "Pulmonary Dysfunction," by Robert Demling, MD, FACS; and "Infection Control in Surgical Practice," by A. Peter McLean, MD, and Catherine Dixon, RN.

Along with the loose-leaf text, subscribers may opt to receive 30 hours of category 2 CME credit for their reading at no extra cost. This program is accredited by the American College of Surgeons.

For additional information, visit booth 3207 in the technical exhibit area or contact Scientific American Medicine at 415 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017-1111; tel. 800/545-0554, fax 212/980-3062.

Program Changes

Listed below are program changes made since the publication of the official Program Book.

General Sessions

In Thursday's Papers Session II, Edwin L. Kaplan, MD, FACS, is the discussant for "Parathyroid Localization with Technetium-99m-Sestamibi: A Prospective Evaluation."

Postgraduate Courses

The correct moderator for Postgraduate Course #20, Session II, Tuesday morning, is Erwin R. Thal, MD, FACS, Dallas, TX. For Session IV, Wednesday morning, David M. Heimbach, MD, FACS, Seattle, WA, replaces John A. Weigelt, MD, FACS, as moderator. Also in Session IV, Gordon L. Telford, MD, FACS, replaces Barry A. Levine, MD, FACS, as a presenter.

Motion Picture Sessions

The authors of the Tuesday morning Vascular Surgery videotape that has been retitled "Transluminal Stent Graft Repair and Other Minimally Invasive Techniques for Arterial Trauma" are as follows: Michael L. Marin, MD; Frank J. Veith, MD, FACS; Ross T. Lyon, MD; Luis A. Sanchez, MD; Jacob Cynamon, MD; and Kurt R. Wengerter, MD, FACS, New York, NY.

The correct author order for the Tuesday morning Vascular Surgery videotape entitled "Lower Extremity Revascularization Using the Descending Thoracic Aorta" is: Thomas A. Schneider II, MD, and Blair A. Keagy, MD, FACS.

The discussant for the Wednesday morning

Colon and Rectal Surgery Ciné Clinic videotape, "Excision of Presacral Tumor," by Warren E. Enker, MD, FACS, is Paul H. Sugarbaker, MD, FACS, Washington, DC.

The coauthor and presenter of the Otorhinolaryngology videotape, "Acoustic Tumor Removal," by Charles M. Luetje II, MD, FACS, is Gregory A. Ator, MD, Kansas City, KS.

Champ L. Baker, Jr., MD, FACS, author of the Thursday morning Orthopaedic Surgery videotape, "Arthroscopically Assisted Arthodesis," is from Columbus, GA.

In Wednesday's Ciné Clinic, "Resections for Rectal Cancer" is the category heading for two presentations: I. "Laparoscopic Anterior Resection for Cancer," and II. "Anterior Resection for Rectal Cancer (Open Technique)."

Surgical Forum

The Outcomes and Quality of Life session will take place Wednesday, October 25, as listed in the Program Book.

Scientific Exhibits

The following are Scientific Exhibit additions/replacements:

SE 127, Through the Knee Amputation: A Preferable Amputation for the Ischemic "Non-Revascularizable" Extremity (Noel Nellis, MD, FACS, and Joseph M. Van De Water, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dublin, GA, and Mercer University, Macon, GA).

SE 149, Vertical Banded Gastropasty (VBG) for Surgical Treatment of the Severely Obese

Patient: The Long-term Results (Edward E. Mason, MD, FACS, David H. Scott, Cornelius Doherty, MD, FACS, Evelyn M. Rodriguez, James J. Maher, MD, FACS, and Joseph J. Cullen, MD; Department of Surgery, UIHC, Iowa City, IA).

SE 260, Hernia Repair Using an Inguinal Hernia Repair Preshape with Keyhole Slit (Harold H. Goldstein, MD, FACS).

SE 273, Preperitoneal Laparoscopic Urethrapexy (Bruce E. Wiita, MD, FACS, and Chester B. Algood, MD, FACS).

SE 288, The Workforce in General Surgery (Olga Jonasson, MD, FACS, Francis A. Kwakwa, MA, and George F. Sheldon, MD, FACS; American College of Surgeons, Chicago, IL).

The following Scientific Exhibits have been cancelled: SE 149, SE 150, SE 156, SE 260, and SE 273

Technical Exhibits

Following are technical exhibits that were added after the publication of the Exhibit Guide:

1017, ATRAX (USA), Inc. (ATRAZIP Surgical Zipper), 23621 La Palma Ave., Ste. H-418, Yorba Linda, CA; 714/692-4001.

1567, French Emergency Pocket Airway, Inc., 1705 Calhoun St., New Orleans, LA 70118; 504/866-3290.

3054, First USA Bank, 201 N. Walnut St., 3 Christiana Ctr., Wilmington, DE 19801; 302/594-8247.

3160, Gabriel Medical, 2014 W. Pinhook Rd., Ste. 604, Lafayette, LA 70508; 318/237-3600.

1653, Imagyn Medical, Incorporated, 27651 La Paz Rd., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677; 714/362-2500.

1549, Imex Medical Systems, Inc., 6355 Joyce Dr., Golden, CO 80403; 303/431-9400.

3152, Nordic Advantage, 104 Peavey, Rd., Chaska, MN 55318; 800/892-2174.

2863, PHI Enterprises, Inc., 12832 Garden Grove Blvd., Ste. E, Garden Grove, CA 92643; 714/537-7858.

1554, Philips Medical Systems, 710 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton, CT 06484; 203/926-7674.

3156, Spiller & Reeves Marketing Research, 950 Tamiami Trail, Ste. 208, Sarasota, FL 34236; 941/954-3367.

1553, Tamiko Corporation, 13335 Saticoy St., North Hollywood, CA 91605; 818/764-1318.

2864, Unetixs, Inc., 8192 Post Rd., North Kingstown, RI 02852; 401/294-7559.

1308, Universal Medical Technologies, 2171 Sandy Dr., State College, PA 16803; 919/676-3818.

The following companies have relocated: 1015, Televox; 3148, The Upjohn Co.

The following companies have canceled: IntelliMed; Medical Economics.

Tuesday

Morning

CICD

6:30 am - 8:00 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Belle Chase.

General Surgery & Laparoscopy News

7:00 am - 8:00 am. Breakfast.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Melrose.

Journal of the American College of Surgeons Editorial Board

7:00 am - 8:30 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Rosedown Room.

Surgical Journal Editors

7:00 am - 8:30 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Oak Alley.

Association for Surgical Education—Committee on Computers

7:00 am - 8:30 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Salon, Suite A, Section 4.

American College of Surgeons, Indiana Chapter

7:00 am - 9:00 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Elmwood.

Pan American Trauma Society

7:00 am - 9:00 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Jasperwood.

VA Cooperative Study #367

8:00 am - 12:00 am. Breakfast meeting.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Executive.

Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract

11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Luncheon.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Oak Alley.

Surgical Section, National Medical Association

11:30 am - 2:00 pm. Luncheon.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Magnolia.

Afternoon

American Society of General Surgeons

12:00 noon - 2:00 pm. Luncheon.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Grand Salon, Suite D.

SAGES Board of Governors

12:00 noon - 5:30 pm. Meeting.
Marriott, 2nd floor, LaGalerie 2.

Applied Medical Resources

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Meeting.
Marriott, 3rd floor, Mardi Gras D.

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Young Researchers Committee

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Meeting.
Sheraton, 4th floor, Rosella.

SAGES Corporate Council

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Meeting.
Marriott, 4th floor, Mardi Gras K.

ASE Faculty Development Committee

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 2nd floor, Marlborough, Suite B.

James IV Association of Surgeons, Inc.

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Salon, Suite B, Section 11.

Evening

University Surgical Society

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Meeting.
Marriott, 2nd floor, LaGalerie 6.

Society of Air Force Clinical Surgeons

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Reception.
Inter-Continental, 1st floor, Fulton.

University of Rochester, Surgical Alumni and Associates

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Salon, Suite B, Section 10.

American College of Surgeons, Brooklyn and Long Island Chapter

5:30 - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, River I.

James D. Rives Surgical Society

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Inter-Continental New Orleans, 1st floor, LaSalle B.

University of Mississippi Medical Center, Department of Surgery

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 3rd floor, Mardi Gras B.

University of California, San Diego, Medical Center

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Windsor Court, 1st floor.

SUNY Health Science Center, Department of Surgery

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 4th floor, Regent.

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Continuing Education Committee

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Magnolia.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Reception.
Broussard's Restaurant, 1st floor.

Tulane Surgical Society/Department of Surgery

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Horizons.

University of Chicago Medical Center

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Royal Orleans, 1st floor, Ballroom.

University of Chicago, Department of Surgery

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Royal Orleans, 1st floor, Ballroom.

Baylor College of Medicine

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Versailles Ballroom.

University of Louisville, Department of Surgery, Faculty, Alumni, and Friends

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Ballroom, Suite B.

Wayne State University School of Medicine, Department of Surgery Alumni Association

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Ballroom II.

University of Minnesota

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Napoleon Ballroom.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Alumni

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Oak Alley.

University of Illinois, Department of Surgery

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Salon, Suite A, Section 1.

U.C. Davis Surgical Association

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Imperial.

Akron General Medical Center

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Salon.

American College of Surgeons, North Texas Chapter

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Salon, Suite A, Section 3.

University of North Carolina Surgical Alumni/Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 2nd floor, Marlborough, Suite A.

Northwestern Surgical Alumni

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 4th floor, Mardi Gras L.

Albany Medical College, Department of Surgery

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Executive.

Deterling Surgical Society/Tufts Medical

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Cotton.

University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Surgery

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 4th floor, Mardi Gras M.

Maimonides Surgical Society-Maimonides Medical Center

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 4th floor, Bacchus.

Will C. Sealy Surgical Society and Mercer University School of Medicine, Department of Surgery

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 3rd floor, Mardi Gras A.

University of Utah, Department of Surgery Alumni

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 2nd floor, LaGalerie 1.

Surgical Society of the New York Medical College

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 2nd floor, LaGalerie 4.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation Alumni Association

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 2nd floor, LaGalerie 3.

Medical College of Virginia, Department of Surgery

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 4th floor, Aurora.

University of Iowa, Department of Surgery Alumni

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 3rd floor, St. Charles B.

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Surgery

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 5th floor, Ballroom E.

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Windsor Court, 1st floor.

Georgetown Alumni Association

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 3rd floor, Mardi Gras D.

Indiana University School of Medicine Alumni Association

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 3rd floor, Mardi Gras F.

Roy D. McClure Surgical Alumni Society

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Rosedown.

Jefferson Medical College Alumni and Faculty

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Royal Orleans, 1st floor, Royal Terrace.

Ravdin-Rhoads Surgical Society

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Reception/dinner.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Terrace.

Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Department of Surgery

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Chairman's.

American College of Surgeons, South Carolina Chapter

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 4th floor, Bayside A.

Duke University Surgical Alumni

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Belle Chase.

(continued on page 7)

1996 Spring Meeting set for New York

The 24th annual Spring Meeting will be held April 14-17, 1996, at the New York Hilton and Towers Hotel, New York, NY. The topic for the Assembly of General Surgeons, which will initiate the sessions for the meeting on Sunday, April 14, will be "Practice Challenges for Contemporary General Surgery."

This "town meeting" session will bring an audience of general surgeons together with members of the Advisory Council and other speakers who will address issues of these challenging times.

All attendees at the Assembly are encouraged to participate in the discussion, question the speakers, and provide their views on the issues.

Plenary sessions on Monday, April 15, will open with a panel discussion, "Inflammatory Bowel Disease," moderated by Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD, FACS. The Edward D. Churchill Lecture will be delivered by Seymour I. Schwartz, MD, FACS, and his subject will be "A Bit of Life—The Past and Present of Hepatic Resection."

The afternoon's socioeconomic panel discussion will address "Preparing Your Practice for the 21st Century,"

and will be moderated by Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD, FACS. The day will conclude with an evening presentation of a collection of films that were judged to be the best of those presented for general surgeons at the 1995 Clinical Congress.

Four postgraduate courses will be presented on Tuesday, April 16. These courses will address "Update on the Treatment of Cancer of the Colon and Breast," "Vascular Surgery 1996," "Trauma: Ultrasonography for Trauma Surgeons," and "Minimal Access Surgery."

On Wednesday, April 17, Charles M. Ferguson, MD, FACS, will moderate the final session of the meeting entitled "Evaluation and Treatment of the Jaundiced Patient."

Because of their continued popularity with surgeons who attend this meeting, technical exhibits will be presented again at the meeting. An attractive social program is also planned.

The College's Spring Meeting has become a favorite for general surgeons because of its focus on general surgical scientific, clinical, and socioeconomic issues.

An advance brochure detailing the



Rockefeller Center in New York, NY

program, registration procedures, and information about travel and hotel packages will be mailed in early 1996 to all Fellows, Associate Fellows, and Candidate Group members.

A preliminary program will be pub-

lished in full in the January 1996 issue of the *Bulletin*. Further registration information may be obtained from Nancy Sutton at College headquarters, 55 E. Erie St., Chicago, IL 60611; tel. 312/664-4050.

ALLIED MEETINGS, from page 6

New Jersey University Programs and American College of Surgeons, New Jersey Chapter

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 3rd floor, Pontchartrain D.

Lahey Hitchcock

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 4th floor, Felicity.

Fairview General Hospital (Health Cleveland) General Surgery Residency Program Alumni

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 3rd floor, Mardi Gras C.

University of Cincinnati, Department of Surgery

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Ballroom, Suite D.

Washington University School of Medicine

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Elmwood.

Medical College of Pennsylvania/Hahnemann University, Department of Surgery

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 2nd floor, LaGalerie 5.

SUNY/Buffalo, WNY Chapter of SCS, Department of Surgery and Roswell Park Cancer Institute

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 4th floor, Iberville.

Rush Surgical Society Alumni

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Reception.
Bella Luna Restaurant, 1st floor.

University of Toronto, Department of Surgery

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 3rd floor, Pontchartrain B.

University of Michigan, Department of Surgery

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Reception.
World Trade Center, 1st floor, Top of the Mart.

McGill University

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 3rd floor, Pontchartrain C.

Christian Medical and Dental Society

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Dinner.
Marriott, 3rd floor, Mardi Gras E.

Society of Philippine Surgeons

6:30 pm - 10:30 pm. Reception/dinner.
Marriott, 2nd floor, LaGalerie 2.

Maine Medical Center, Department of Surgery/American College of Surgeons, Maine Chapter, Members and Initiates

7:00 pm. Dinner.
Antoine's, 713 St. Louis St.

American Society for Surgeons of Indian Origin

7:00 pm. Annual meeting.
Gallier Hall, 535 St. Charles St.

Chirurgio Society

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Jasperwood.

AUB Alumni Association of North America

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Reception/dinner.
Inter-Continental, 1st floor, Poydras (7:00 - 8:30 pm)/2nd floor, LesContinents (8:30 - 11:00 pm).

Mayo Clinic

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Reception.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Salon, Suite C.

American College of Surgeons, Georgia Chapter, and Medical College of Georgia

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 4th floor, Bonaparte.

American College of Surgeons, Puerto Rico Chapter

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Reception.
Marriott, 3rd floor, Mardi Gras H.

Society of Loma Linda University Surgeons

7:30 pm - 10:00 pm. Reception.
Sheraton, 3rd floor, St. Charles A.

Francis E. Rosato Surgical Society

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Dinner.
Royal Orleans, 1st floor, Vieux Carre.

Wednesday

Morning

International Society of Surgery, U.S. Chapter

6:45 am - 8:00 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Jasperwood.

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Committee for Review of Colorectal Clinical Trials

7:00 am - 9:00 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 3rd floor, Oak Alley.

Association of Women Surgeons

7:00 am - 9:30 am. Breakfast meeting.
Hilton Riverside, 1st floor, Grand Salon, Suite A, Section 1.

SAGES, Committee Meeting

7:00 am - 10:00 am. Meeting.
Marriott, 4th floor, Bonaparte.

Surgical Infection Society, Long-Range Planning Committee

7:30 am - 9:00 am. Breakfast meeting.
Inter-Continental, 1st floor, Pelican 1.

Tripler General Surgery Program

11:00 am - 1:30 pm. Luncheon.
Westin Canal Place, 1st floor, Terrace.



The Board of Regents met on Saturday. Pictured are: (top row, left to right) Charles W. Logan (Board of Governors Executive Committee), H. Bryan Neel III (ACS Treasurer), Edward M. Copeland III (Secretary, Board of Governors Executive Committee), Samuel A. Wells, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), George D. Wilbanks, Thomas J. Krizek, Paul H. Ward, Harvey W. Bender, Jr., C. James Carrico, Richard R. Sabo, Paul E. Collicott, Jonathan L. Meakins, Edward R. Laws, Jr.; (bottom row, left to right) William W. Kridelbaugh (ACS First Vice-President), Kathryn D. Anderson (ACS Secretary), Richard J. Field, Jr. (ACS Second Vice-President), LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. (ACS President-Elect), Richard J. Finley (Chairman, Board of Governors Executive Committee), Margaret F. Longo, Seymour I. Schwartz (Chairman), Roger S. Foster, Jr., Paul C. Peters, Alexander J. Walt (ACS President), Ronald E. Rosenthal, Thomas R. Russell, Theodore Lawwill, and Hugh H. Trout III (Vice-Chairman, Board of Governors Executive Committee).

National Trauma Data Bank™ takes shape

When the College's Board of Regents approved the undertaking of a trauma registry program six years ago, it did so with the clear purpose of eventually developing a national trauma registry that would provide data on injury from the entire United States, with the ultimate goal of improving care of the injured nationwide.

The evolution of the trauma registry program has now progressed to where that purpose is taking concrete form as

the National Trauma Data Bank™ (NTDB) of the American College of Surgeons.

Early this year, an action plan for the National Trauma Data Bank was written under the guidance of the Trauma Registry Subcommittee of the Committee on Trauma, which is currently chaired by David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS. Since that time, a small NTDB Development Group has actively undertaken work to design the data bank.

Goals that have been stated for the

NTDB are that it should:

- be inclusive, though it admittedly will not be population-based.
- favorably influence treatment by improving methods of evaluating treatment.
- encourage development of better injury scoring systems and outcome measures.
- be a rich source of data for injury research.

In the course of this work, the data elements and data-element definitions

used by all known trauma registries used by multiple institutions have been collected and reviewed in order to provide appropriate background for decisions as to what data should be collected in the NTDB.

Critical to these decisions will be the likelihood of any given data element providing information compatible with NTDB goals and the accessibility of data from sources on which the National Trauma Data Bank™ is likely to draw.

NLM database program available to Fellows

Fellows of the American College of Surgeons can continue to enjoy virtually unlimited on-line access to the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) databases—including MEDLINE—for a flat fee of \$200 per year. (Canadian Fellows will have to pay an additional charge for telecommunications costs.)

The College recently renewed its contract with NLM to offer this special arrangement for its members. Normally, NLM charges fees that average \$18 per hour, and the NLM estimates that the average cost of a Grateful Med search is \$1.25.

For the \$200 annual fee, subscribers obtain:

- One year of access to MEDLINE—the world-renowned database that contains over 7 million references to

medical journal articles from 1966 to the present.

- Access to NLM's 40-plus other databases, which cover topics such as cancer protocol (PDQ), AIDS (AIDS-LINE), and toxicology (TOXLINE).

- A copy of Grateful Med software for IBM-compatible or Macintosh PCs.

- NLM's bimonthly publication, *Gratefully Yours*.

- Technical support via a toll-free number.

- Access to training and assistance from the NLM's 3,500-member National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

In addition, NLM's "Lonesome Doc" program will link users with a hospital or other medical library so that they can obtain printed copies of entire articles (libraries may charge a fee for this service, which would not be cov-

ered by the \$200 fee).

The American College of Surgeons and the National Library of Medicine emphasize that this arrangement is designed for individual use and is not meant to be shared with multiple users.

New members will be sent a user ID code-password, documentation, and customer service telephone numbers. This packet of information will be mailed

within five working days as applications are received.

The National Technical Information Service will send the Grateful Med software to members within 10 working days after the application is received.

To obtain a copy of a brochure that outlines the program and includes an application form, stop by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine booth #3005 in the technical exhibit area.

Registration totals

As of Monday afternoon, total registration for the Clinical Congress was 11,319. Of that number, 7,122 were physicians and 4,197 were exhibitors, guests, spouses, or convention personnel.